

substrate with curvature, and

a sealing resin layer and a protective layer provided on said sealing resin layer;

and

at least one electrically conductive clip attached to lead-out electrodes of said first electrode and said second electrode;

wherein said electrically conductive clip includes first side pieces and second side pieces on both side edges of a strip-like connection plate thereby forming a substantially channel-type section;

said first side pieces are disposed at a side of a conductive surface and include a planar portion and a flap portion extending from said planar portion; and

each of the second side pieces is disposed at a side of a substrate and includes,

a terminal portion thereof shaped to be outwardly opened, and

a central portion formed in a convex shape narrowing an inner opening of said electrically conductive clip such that an elastic property is imparted to the clip.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 having been amended by way of the present response.

In the outstanding Office Action, independent Claim 4 was objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claim 4 to recite "one channel-type section" in place of the previous recitation of "a one channel-type section," in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Thus, for at least these reasons,

Applicants respectfully request that the objection to independent Claim 4 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were apparently rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that the claims are indefinite, and respectfully assert that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter that Applicants regard as an invention. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the recitations in Claims 1 and 2 of “in such a manner as” and “in such a way as” are understood by one of ordinary skill to have a same meaning, for example, as “so that.” Notwithstanding this traversal, however, Applicants have amended each of Claims 1 and 2 in a non-narrowing manner to overcome the rejection. In particular, Applicants have amended each of independent Claims 1 and 2 to remove the recitations of “in such a manner as” and “in such a way as,” as appropriate. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 and 2 under 35 § U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 2, 3, and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,148,306 to Yamada et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,509 to Tonar et al. Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of the claims have been overcome for the reasons discussed in detail below.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that independent Claims 1 and 4 include allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that independent Claims 1 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. For the reasons discussed in detail above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection to independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome. Further, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claim 4 has not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second

paragraph, in the Office Action. Applicants also respectfully assert that the objection to independent Claim 4 has been overcome for the reasons discussed in detail above.

Additionally, each of the claims is an independent claim. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent Claims 1 and 4.

Independent Claims 2 and 5 have also been amended. Applicants respectfully assert that support for these changes are self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to recite features similar to those recited in allowable independent Claims 1 and 4. In particular, independent Claims 2 and 5, as amended, recites that a central portion is formed in a convex shape narrowing an inner opening “such that an elastic property is imparted to the clip.” Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the independent claims allowed.

Dependent Claim 3 and dependent Claims 6 and 7 depend from independent Claims 2 and 5, respectively, and are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own features. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 3, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the dependent claims allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7 is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

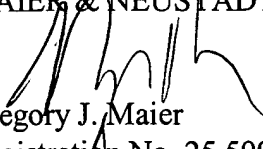
Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A clip for an EC mirror, including a metallic clip formed by providing both side pieces on both side edges of an electrically conductive strip-like metallic plate [in such a way as to face] facing each other and [to be] integral with each other thereby to constitute one channel-type section as a whole, said clip, wherein:

one of both said side pieces, which is configured to be disposed at a side of a conductive surface, is formed in a planar shape [in such a manner as] to be able to be in planar and intimate contact with the conductive surface; [and]

the other of both said side pieces, which is configured to be disposed at a back side of a substrate, includes a terminal portion shaped [in such a way as] to be outwardly opened[,];
and

a central portion is formed in a protruding shape [in such a manner as to be] bent toward an inside of said clip and [as to narrow] narrowing at an inner opening thereof, to thereby impart an elastic property thereto.

2. (Twice Amended) An electrode structure for an EC mirror having an electrode portion in which a transparent electrically conductive film serving as a first electrode, an EC film to be formed on said transparent electrically conductive film, and a second electrode and reflecting film to be formed on said EC film are sequentially formed on a transparent

substrate, and in which a sealing resin layer and a protective layer are provided thereon, and in which metallic clips are attached to lead-out electrodes for said first electrode and said second electrode, wherein:

said clip is formed by providing either of a first side piece or a second side piece on both side edges of a strip-like connection plate, which is made of an electrically conductive metallic material, [in such a way as to face] facing each other and [to be] integral with each other thereby to constitute substantially a channel-type section as a whole;

the clip is contacted with or in close proximity to the sealing layer;

one of said first and second side pieces, which is disposed at a side of a conductive surface, of said clip is formed in a planar shape; and

the other of said first and second side pieces, which is disposed at a side of a substrate, includes a terminal portion thereof shaped [in such a way as to be] outwardly opened, and a central portion is formed in a convex shape [in such a manner as to narrow] narrowing an inner opening thereof such that an elastic property is imparted to the clip.

4. (Amended) A clip for an EC mirror, comprising:

an electrically conductive strip-like plate;

a plurality of first side pieces on a first side edge of the electrically conductive strip-like plate [that] includes a planar portion and a flap portion extending from said planar portion; and

a plurality of second side pieces on a second side edge of the electrically conductive strip-like plate;

wherein the plurality of first side pieces and the plurality of second side pieces face each other and are integral with each other thereby forming [a] one channel-type section;

each of the plurality of first side pieces is configured to be disposed at a side of a

conductive surface and is formed such that the planar portion is in planar and intimate contact with the conductive surface; and

each of the plurality of second pieces is configured to be disposed at a back side of a substrate and includes,

a terminal portion shaped to outwardly opened, and

a central portion formed in a protruding shape thereby bending toward an inside of said clip and narrowing at an inner opening thereof such that an elastic property is imparted to the clip.

5. (Amended) An electrode structure for an EC mirror, comprising:

an electrode portion including,

a transparent electrically conductive film serving as a first electrode,

an electrochromic film formed on said transparent electrically conductive film,

a second electrode and a reflecting film formed on said electrochromic film,

wherein said transparent electrically conductive film, said electrochromic film, said second electrode and said reflecting film are sequentially formed on a transparent substrate with curvature, and

a sealing resin layer and a protective layer provided on said sealing resin layer;

and

at least one electrically conductive clip attached to lead-out electrodes of said first electrode and said second electrode;

wherein said electrically conductive clip includes first side pieces and second side pieces on both side edges of a strip-like connection plate thereby forming a substantially channel-type section;

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said first side pieces are disposed at a side of a conductive surface and include a planar portion and a flap portion extending from said planar portion; and

each of the second side pieces is disposed at a side of a substrate and includes,

a terminal portion thereof shaped to be outwardly opened, and

a central portion formed in a convex shape [forming a] narrowing an inner opening of said electrically conductive clip such that an elastic property is imparted to the clip.

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